

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

Finding: The “Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy Ten-Year Plan” provides a method to prioritize and coordinate fuel treatment work across ownership boundaries in Lake Tahoe Basin.

Background: The Commission has heard public comment during the September 10th and 21st meetings that the agencies conducting fuel treatment work in the Lake Tahoe Basin do not appear to coordinate their activities, communicate effectively treatment priorities, or seek efficiencies when implementing projects. The White Pine Bill requires development of a basin-wide strategy to qualify for SNPMA funding. The agencies in the Basin are required to develop an integrated strategy and update it annually. The agencies identify strategic priorities so that there is agreement on areas needing treatment first across all jurisdictions in the Basin. Funding under the White Pine authorization is available to both federal and non-federal organizations.

Alternatives:

1. Adopt the Ten-year Strategy as the method to coordinate, prioritize, and inform the public of fuel treatments planned within the Basin.
2. Establish a Basin-wide coordinating process lead by TRPA.
3. Continue as is without a formal coordination process.

Impacts:

- ✓ Fiscal – The coordination options should increase efficiency and effectiveness of fuel treatments planned in the Basin. Alternatives 1 and 2 could be done as part of existing agencies process, minimizing additional planning expenses.
- ✓ Operational – Alternatives 1 and 2 provide the opportunity to greatly increase operational effectiveness and efficiency. They could enable fuel treatment agencies to leverage funding to accomplish more acres than individually.
- ✓ Legal – Adopting Alternative 1 will satisfy the objective of coordinating fuel treatments across jurisdictional boundaries and enable all agencies within the Basin to compete for Federal SNPLMA funding annually.
- ✓ Labor –
- ✓ Social – The public will have an effective method to learn about all of the fuel treatments planned annually.
- ✓ Political – Coordination will address concerns of Congressional delegations.
- ✓ Policy –
- ✓ Health and Safety – Alternatives 1 and 2 may allow agencies to prioritize location of fuel treatments to maximize community protection. This has the potential to reduce the risk of loss of life and property in the Basin.
- ✓ Environmental –

✓ Interagency –

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. The Commission endorses the “Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy Ten-Year Plan” and its annual updating process as the mechanism to achieve interagency coordination, increased economic and operational efficiency, and public awareness of fuel treatment priorities within the Basin for the next ten years.
2. The 17 agencies covered by the ten-year strategy will develop one or more fuel treatment projects that integrate fuels treatment across jurisdictional boundaries with one decision document, combined funding, and one implementation contract to the extent feasible under their legal authorities. This recommendation should be applied to Round 9 and all subsequent SNPLMA funding cycles.